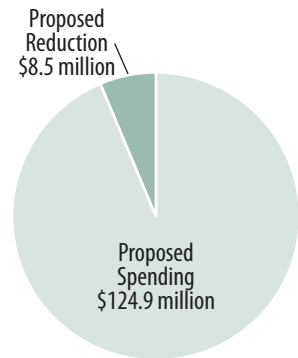


# Education

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## EARLY LEARNING

Believing in the primacy of early learning opportunities as a means to build a foundation for our children and our state's future, Governor Gregoire established the Department of Early Learning three years ago. This agency leads in the development of education for our youngest citizens and provides support for parents as their children's first and most important teachers. In the intervening years, the state has taken important steps to ready children for success in school and in life. The agency is also improving the safety and quality of early learning and child care programs in the state through more oversight and by strengthening child care licensing rules. This proposed budget continues progress in offering services for our youngest learners and supporting those who provide for their care and education.



## Goals

- » Preserve high-quality early learning programs for young children.
- » Maintain safe and healthy environments for children in child care settings.

## What We Invest In

### Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

Funding covers 8,226 slots for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds at an average rate of \$6,674 for high-quality pre-kindergarten programs through the state's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program.

*(\$112.9 million General Fund-State)*

### Quality Rating and Improvement System

The Department of Early Learning and the private-public partnership Thrive by Five, Washington continue work to pilot a Quality Rating and Improvement System. This system improves the quality of early care and education programs and provides parents with information they need to choose high-quality child care.

*(\$1 million GF-S)*

### Quality improvement specialists

Five quality improvement specialists are funded to help maintain safety and health standards in 7,534 state-licensed early learning homes and centers. The specialists will work with 90 federally funded licensors.

*(\$870,000 GF-S)*

## How We Achieve Savings

**Suspension of the Career and Wage Ladder**, which creates incentives for child care teachers to advance their education and professional development. *(\$3.0 million GF-S)*

**Suspension of funding for the Family, Friends and Neighbors program** that provides interactive learning opportunities to young children and their families. *(\$2.0 million GF-S)*

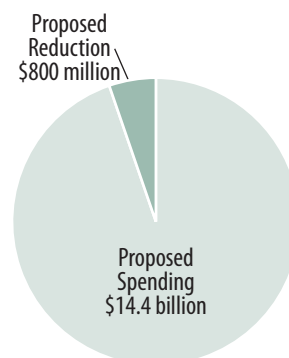
**Elimination of state funds for the Child Care Resource and Referral Network.** The network will continue to receive \$5.5 million in federal funding to operate local referral hot lines and provide training, and \$700,000 in federal funding for the Washington Scholars Program. *(\$1.7 million GF-S)*

**Other reductions including pension changes.** *(\$1.8 million GF-S and other funds)*

## K-12 EDUCATION

Among all the functions of state government, providing funding for basic education is paramount. Individually and collectively, our more than 1 million students embody the promise of a brighter, more prosperous future for families and communities across the state. Despite declining state revenues, it is imperative that we continue to invest in the education of our children. Economic revitalization truly starts in the classroom.

Under Governor Gregoire's leadership, significant progress has been made in classroom instruction, teacher preparation and learning assistance. Despite areas of reduction or suspension, her proposed budget continues in that direction.



## Goals

- » Maintain basic education funding for schools.
- » Prioritize programs that demonstrate links to research-based best practices.
- » Maintain programs focused on improving student achievement and closing the achievement gap.
- » Retain focus on the quality of instruction.
- » Provide state and regional infrastructure to effectively manage the K-12 system.

## What We Invest In

**K-12 basic education services** *(\$12.2 billion General Fund-State), including:*

- Special education services. *(\$1.3 billion GF-S)*
- Pupil transportation. *(\$628.0 million GF-S)*
- Learning Assistance Program. *(\$207.2 million GF-S)*

**Several programs outside the K-12 basic education area, including:**

- Initiative 728 for class size reductions, early learning, professional development and extended learning opportunities. *(\$732.9 million Student Achievement Fund)*
- Levy equalization. *(\$360.8 million GF-S)*
- K-4 class size enhancements. *(\$260.0 million GF-S)*
- All-day kindergarten for lowest income schools. *(\$81.0 million Education Legacy Trust Account)*
- Professional development days targeted at implementing new math and science standards. *(\$69.9 million GF-S)*

**In addition, a number of targeted grant and technical assistance programs will continue through the 2009–11 biennium, including those that:**

- Improve student achievement and close the achievement gap, which includes the focused assistance program for schools with large percentages of struggling students, as well as diagnostic assessments. *(\$20.4 million GF-S, \$4.4 million Education Legacy Trust Account)*
- Support the quality of instruction, including alternative routes to teacher certification, National Board bonuses and the Leadership Academy. *(\$66.6 million GF-S, \$2.1 million Education Legacy Trust Account)*
- Support the foundational math and science effort, including school district math and science coaches, Educational Service District math and science experts, math and science standards and curriculum development, after-school math assistance and the LASER science program. *(\$10.2 million GF-S, \$7.3 million Education Legacy Trust Account)*
- Support student health and safety through school breakfast and lunch programs, nurse corps and training for school safety personnel. *(\$13.2 million GF-S)*
- Provide school district financial technical assistance. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction predicts that more school districts with declining fund balances could become subject to state oversight. A group of experts is created through the Educational Service Districts to help school districts with financial planning and monitoring. The OSPI will coordinate this technical assistance. *(\$3.0 million GF-S)*

#### **Services at School for the Deaf and School for the Blind**

Specialized instruction is provided for approximately 200 students at the School for the Deaf and School for the Blind. *(\$30.9 million GF-S)*

### **How We Achieve Savings**

**Elimination of lower-priority programs**, including multi-year pilot programs and specialized programs that do not have wide impacts across the state, such as the civics curriculum pilot project, LEAP bilingual pilot, accountability institutes, math helping corps and reading corps. *(\$22.5 million GF-S)*

**Suspension of 21 percent of Initiative 728 funds.** *(\$178.0 million Student Achievement Fund)*

**Reduction in levy equalization**, which provides a state match to local school districts with higher-than-average tax rates to raise a local levy (those districts are more “property poor” than average). For calendar years 2010 and 2011, allocations for levy equalization are reduced by 33 percent. This timing allows school districts to phase in the reductions over two school years. *(\$125.4 million GF-S)*

**Refocus two state-funded professional development days** on implementing new math and science standards. Separate grant funding for math and science professional development is eliminated. *(\$39.7 million Education Legacy Trust Account)*

**Suspension of Initiative 732 funds** for teacher and other K-12 employee salary increases. *(\$349.2 million GF-S)*

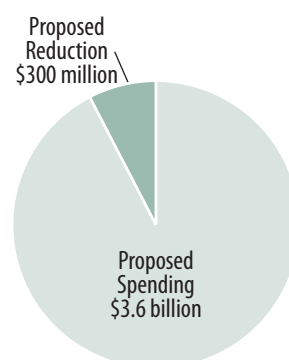
**Elimination, reduction or suspension of grant programs** that provide support services such as readiness to learn, building bridges grants, after-school grants and school safety plan grants. *(\$48.3 million GF-S)*

**Other reductions including pension changes.** *(\$36.9 million GF-S and other funds)*

## HIGHER EDUCATION

Washington's public colleges and universities are the economic engine that drives the state's economy and will drive our recovery. Students with college degrees earn more over their lifetimes, report working in more fulfilling jobs and contribute stability to their communities.

Employers look for trained and skilled workers. Our higher education institutions fill this need by graduating students ready to join the work force and contribute to society. Yet even with 100,000 students in the four-year college system and 200,000 in the community and technical college system, demand for enrollments continues to top state funding. Governor Gregoire's proposed budget reduces state support for public colleges and universities, but maintains current enrollment levels. Tuition increases are consistent with established state policies that place limits on annual tuition growth. Student financial aid will increase to help keep tuition affordable for needy students.



### Goals

- » Preserve access to higher education by maintaining enrollment levels.
- » Maintain affordability for lower-income students by increasing financial aid grants to reflect higher tuition rates.
- » Acknowledge the diverse missions of the two-year and four-year institutions.
- » Maintain flexibility for state colleges and universities while establishing targets in vital areas such as high-demand fields.

### What We Invest In

#### Overall funding for two research universities and four regional universities and college

More than 100,000 students seeking a baccalaureate, graduate or professional degree are served at the state's public college and universities. (\$1.5 billion General Fund-State, \$143.0 million Education Legacy Trust Account)

#### Overall funding for the community and technical college system

More than 200,000 students are served in this system, many of whom enroll to upgrade their jobs skills or quickly retool for a new career. (\$1.4 billion GF-S, \$95.1 million Education Legacy Trust Account)

#### Student financial aid

Student financial aid programs, including the State Need Grant program, will increase to match higher tuition rates. The overall growth of financial aid programs is modified by making incremental changes to eligibility and grant amounts for students from families with higher incomes. (\$376.6 million GF-S, \$79.8 million Education Legacy Trust Account)

### What We Authorize

The governing boards of the state college and universities are authorized to raise tuition for resident undergraduate students consistent with tuition caps established in state policy. A lower cap is applied to tuition at the community and technical colleges. On average, tuition can increase by about \$450 per year at the research institutions, \$310 per year at the regional college and universities, and \$125 per year at the community and technical colleges. (\$162.6 million local funds)

## How We Achieve Savings

**Reductions, across the board,** of 13 percent for the research and regional institutions and 6 percent for the community and technical colleges. Higher education institutions are given the flexibility to determine how best to implement this reduction. Effects on campus could include fewer course offerings, larger class sizes, reductions in faculty positions and fewer support services for students. Each institution must report on a number of specific outcome measures important to state policy goals, such as graduating/educating students in fields crucial to work force development, math and science, and skills training. The lower rate of reduction for the community and technical colleges is in recognition of their unique mission in job training and skills development essential to the state's economic recovery. *(\$341.9 million GF-S)*

**Suspension of Initiative 732 funds** for faculty and staff in the community and technical colleges.  
*(\$33.8 million GF-S)*